1-35 Boris Pash Writings "Why the Mental Panic?"

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Col. Boris T. Pash (Ret.)
1712 Mulroy St.
McLean, Virginia

Pash:

I am sorry to report that your returned herewith, does not quite the present needs of the Post. The with most of what you say, but the as been employed in some of our earlier

Thank you, all the same, for letting

Sincerely,

Beverly Smith, Jr.

Beverly Smith, Jr.

3/24/59

Mrs Pash:

This has been cleared thru all channels as previously discussed by Col Pash with Mr Hodges.

It may now be submitted for publication to the magazine —

J. Butler
Off of The J M G.

To Adm letter
89 June.

"Why the Mental Panic?"

NO OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION ON GROUNDS
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WHY THE MENTAL PANIC

by

Col. Boris T. Pash, (Ret.).
(also of m civilian)

REVIEW OF THIS MATERIAL DOES NOT IMPLY
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FACTUAL ACCURACY OR OPINION.

Much is said and written about the cold war, international tensions, threats and counter-threats.

In any international conflict or discussion the position of a national leader depends, to a considerable degree on the metal of the people who elect and support him. At least that is the American way. Such a leader approaches an international conference and faces a critical situation with confidence when he has the assurance of the strength of his position based on the knowledge that his people have the fortitude and the will to meet any emergency.

In a democracy the strength and the fortitude of the people results from an objective and full review of all information relating to any given situation.

In a nation controlled by international communism the condition is different. Not being able to depend on his people the communist dictator keeps them in the dark and rattles the sword, knowing that it is difficult for any one to check on his boasts.

Realizing the irresponsibility of international communism and not having direct access to information from countries behind the Iron Curtain, our people are seeking objective, realistic information regarding the true situation.

The question arises as to whether we have been receiving a realistic appraisal of the Sovet Union. It is evident that for the past few years there have been some startling statements of the tremendous progress being made behind the Iron Curtain and of the astounding lag in our Country. You recall some of these -

1. The Sovet educational system is superior to ours and produces better scientists! Yet Khrushchev finds it necessary to reorganize his system in order to meet the requirements of modern conditions.

2. The Sovets have fired a missile over 100.000 mile into the air, therefore they can pinpoint a missile at 6500 miles. Yet we do not give ourselves the same capability. In this case we say that to pinpoint a missile at a specific range is different than firing it into space.

3. To test our missiles we need the range with the distance at which they will be tested. Yet we accept Khrushchev's boast that the Sovet Union has an 8700 mile ICBM. This,in spite of the fact that the longest ground range the Sovets have is about 4000 miles and 8700 miles would place the impact area byond Hawai and the U.S. Was that the reason Khrushchev picked 8700 out of thin air?

Another question arises as to whether the Sovet system is producing a balanced strength. Or, hiding behind the Iron Curtain, the communists are putting all their capability into a few outstanding efforts and using those to make their bluff stand.

In the latter they apparently are succeeding. It is becoming more evident that the American public is beginning to sucumb to a condition of mental panic. The American public on whose strengtn and force of character the President and Congress must depend and rely in handling matters of our National Security and of our future as a Nation is becoming influenced by this mental panic. The American people are softening and worrying.

Why the mental panic? Are we second best? Let us review a recent news item. The AEC was reported by the press to have stated that the Sovets will have the first atomic surface ship in the Spring of 1959. This news item also stated that the four U.S. nuclear powered surface ships under construction will not be ready until 1960. The reader was left with the impression that the Sovets did it again and that the U.S. is second best. Lost in the impact was the reported fact that we already have in operation several nuclear powered submarines, which, by the way, can and do run on the surface of the sea.

This is the present picture of the atomic surface ship situation. The U.S.

is building four nuclear powered surface ships in four different shipbuilding plants. This construction is in keeping with a schedule based on a program which is sound and purposful.

What about the Sovets? Their atomic icebreaker was was started in 1956. It was launched in December 1957. The dockside tests were scheduled for some time in 1958. Now let me quote from a late 1958 issue of the Sovet publication "Ogonyok": "Looking at the beautiful 'atomship' ones thoughts go back to the XX congress of the CP, when it was decided to construct this ship, unique in the world. And so the daring idea is made a reality. The ship is afloat. Soon the complex machinery will be in operation. Preparing for the XXI Party congress the builders decided to start the dockside tests ahead of the planned schedule..." It must be noted here that the XXI CP congress was held in Moscow in February 1959. Now to continue from the "Ogonyok": "... On all decks of the superstructure, in the compartments and holds the engines and the machinery are being assembled, electric cables and pipes are being installed... There are three more checkmarks - the assembly of all three reactors has been completed... In these days of intense work, young workers from other factories in Leningrad and students of the Leningrad universities have come to the assistance of the shipyard workers. One can see on the ship those who in the near future will man her on the maiden voyage on the arctic run. These members of the crew are also assisting to expedite all the work necessary for the dockside tests. From a distance one can observe on the side of the ship a large banner ' Successful dockside tests - a worthy gift of labor to the XXI congress of the CPSU."

What does this realy mean? Everybody and his brother in Leningrad are working like dogs to get out one nuclear powered surface ship and establish another Sovet "first".

Now look at our own situation. Would it not be possible for us to have one of our four surface nuclear ships in operation in a short time if we dropped construction on the other three and put all our effort into one? If, say, this construction was taking place in Brooklyn and the workers of other New York factories and the students of the New York universities were drafted to assist the shipyard force?

Is the construction of the Sovet ship "Lenin" such an outstanding feat or is it an all out Sovet show effort, a technological window dressing? Is it not possible that much of the Sovet power~~s~~ is like our old cow towns of the West - false fronts hiding a drab reality. Only in this instance it is difficult to see byond the false front and that is why the "front" appears so impressive.

There may be some reason for us to become concerned with Sovet achievements. But there is no reason to give way to mental panic and there is no need for us to weaken our international posture.